



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE WILLIAM TRIGG CENTRE,
BLAENGARW AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 17th JULY 2023 AT 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor G Andrews (Chair)

Councillors:

W Davies
H Griffiths
Neal Harwood-Scorer
M Jones
M Lewis
C Lloyd
M Trowbridge
G Walters

Apologies: Councillor D Davies

No Apologies: Councillors J Coles, R Jones & M Thomas

Also Present: 1 Member of the Public and Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

33/23-24 Apologies (as above)

34/23-24- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
C Lloyd	Tynyrheol Primary School	Governor
H Griffiths	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Ysgol Cymunedol y Dderwen Ffaldau Primary School	Member Governor Chair of Governors
M Jones	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
N Harwood-Scorer	Ffaldau Industrial Estate Units	Proprietor

35/23-24 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2023 ORDINARY MEETING

The June 2023 Annual and Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Resolved: The Minutes of the June 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

36/23-24 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JUNE 2023 MEETING

Minute 18/23-24 Consider Matters Arising from the May 2023 Meetings

Lighting Columns off Victoria Street, Pontycymer - it was noted that these were still not in operation.

T&CC Grant Funding Application - the Clerk informed Members that BCBC had confirmed that the application was not successful this time.

Minute 19/23-24 Warden Ref. Vandalism and Fires in Parc Calon Lan

Councillor M Jones said the press release is being drafted by BCBC.

The Clerk confirmed that a quotation to replace the side of the bridge in Parc Calon Land that has been vandalised time and time again since it's refurbishment, has not yet been received.

Minute 22/23-24 School Community Awards 2022/23

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The Clerk informed Members that all gift cards and awards had been delivered to all schools as all 5 schools had accepted the offer again this year.

Minute 24/23-24 Tree Maintenance

The Clerk had received quotes for pruning back the overhanging branches at Prospect Place, Pontycymer, this included removing and chipping.

Minute 25/23-24 Christmas 2023

The Clerk will make arrangements to meet with the representative of Centre Great to look at the provision at Bettws and will let the Bettws Councillors know the date to see if they could meet too.

Minute 26/23-24 Finance & Accounts

Financial Request: The Llangeinor FC Chair had confirmed to the Clerk that they are not a charity, but they operate as a not for profit organisation for the good of the community. It was noted that a completed Financial Assistance form had still not been received.

Minute 29/23-24 Clerk's Report

Defibrillator Pantygog: this was on hold due to the unavailability of the local responder.

Floral Displays: the 3 tier planter has been installed in Llest; the Clerk is still waiting on licences for the other floral displays.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to contact Centre Great again. It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote of £450 excl. vat from ARB Cymru for the tree maintenance. Item 8 will set out the criteria for financial requests for sports teams. It was noted that Llangeinor FC had not returned their financial assistance form and therefore did not meet the criteria.

37/23-25 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR JUNE 2023

The crime figures for June 2023 had been included with the papers. There were no representatives from SW Police present.

Resolved: It was noted that the figures were lower in June than previous months.

38/23-24 COMMUNITY AWARD - SW FIRE SERVICE

There had been no nominations for either Community Awards for 2022. Councillor H Griffiths proposed that the South Wales Fire Service are presented with the award as

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year after year they help the valley via their services and in particular the grass fires that happen year on year. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to award the South Wales Fire Service with the Community Award for 2022.

39/23-24 OGMORE VALLEY SILVER BAND

The Council had received correspondence from the Ogmore Valley Silver Band offering their services for events for an agreed fee. The brass band is a registered charity.

Councillor Martyn Jones proposed that the Council's Events Committee should put on a Christmas Concert using the band and including Bois Coytrahen choir. He said vulnerable residents in all 4 wards could be invited and buses could be arranged to pick them up and take them home. The proposal was discussed and considered.

Resolved: Councillor Jones' proposal was seconded and unanimously approved. The Clerk would arrange an Events Committee meeting to make the arrangements and report to full council in September.

40/23-24 SPONSORSHIP POLICY FOR SPORTS TEAMS

In previous months, the Council has received a couple of financial requests from sports clubs. This agenda item is to ensure parity across the wards in agreeing those financial requests and to ensure that requests had a realistic expectation of what's financially available. Following a discussion a proposal was made by Councillor M Jones and seconded and the criteria was unanimously agreed and set.

Resolved: It was agreed that the requests received and future requests would need to meet the following criteria and a limit of £500 per team per year was set:

- Complete a financial assistance form.
- Encourage diversity ie the club must have both male and female teams and be inclusive.
- The Community Council purchases the kit.
- There is GVCC branding on the kit.

Note: It was noted that Llangeinor FC had not returned their financial assistance form and therefore did not meet the criteria.

41/23-24 BLAENGARW PRIMARY SCHOOL ALLOTMENT

Councillor Gareth Andrews had received a verbal request from Blaengarw Primary School to use the land to the rear of the school, within Parc Calon Lan, to build raised beds for the children to cultivate. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the school could use this area of land, subject to the Clerk checking the lease to ensure this was permissible.

42/23-24 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS INCLUDING INTERNAL AUDIT AND AUDIT STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023

Payments:

The payments and budget monitoring sheet for July 2023 were included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments totalling £6,930.66

Income:

There had been no income in the month.

Audit 2022/23:

The Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2023 had been distributed with the meeting papers. The Asst. Clerk ran through the statement and the internal auditor's report and answered any questions raised. The internal audit report had not raised any issues. The balance carried forward for the year is £61,473.

Resolved: Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheets presented. The Audit Statement and the Internal Auditor's Report was unanimously accepted, approved and authorised. The RFO and Chair signed the audit statement.

43/23-24 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS

Councillor C Lloyd gave an update on the Welsh Water works taking place in Llangeinor at the moment. The work will continue for a few months and has caused some traffic issues.

Councillor D Davies had submitted a written update to the Clerk to be read out in her absence. The updates included: a missing bin on the main road near the Richard Price Centre and that Tynyrheol Primary School have won the Richard Price Tricentenary competition, organised by Welsh Heritage and came second in the overall competition. They attended the presentation ceremony at Swansea Maritime Museum, where the judges commented on how outstanding the work was. In addition, the Richard Price Centre has an extensive programme of events being held throughout the summer holidays, assisted by the donation from the Llangeinor Ward/GVCC. Councillor Davies also said that the hanging baskets on the main road in Llangeinor look lovely and she is looking forward to the sitting out area at Llest being completed with a 3 tier planter, the 3 benches renewed and a litter bin installed.

Councillor H Griffiths said that issues raised this month included drainage, the condition of the cemetery, fallen trees, pot holes and the Strand. Councillor Griffiths had attended 8 functions as the Deputy Mayor in the months and dealt with 5 phone calls

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regarding recycling. She informed Members that two electric car charging points had been installed in the car park opposite the Vetz on Oxford Street.

Councillor Maxine Lewis had received complaints regarding the rubbish on Ffaldau Industrial Estate including a pile of tyres which were a hazard. Notices had been issued by BCBC for the units concerned to be cleaned up.

Councillor Martyn Jones had received complaints regarding Bettws and Pontycymer cemeteries, which had been embarrassing. After discussing the matter the 3 BCBC councillors agreed to request a meeting with BCBC to discuss these and other complaints including regarding the condition of the Strand.

In addition, Councillor Jones had received a request from the Bettws OAP Group and Bettws FC for financial assistance. One of the items Bettws FC wishes to purchase is a secure place to keep their tractor and maintenance equipment. Councillor Neal Harwood-Scorer suggested a portacabin could be hired.

Councillor William Davies had also received complaints regarding the condition of Pontycymer cemetery. He'd also received complaints regarding sheep on the road and on the square in Pontycymer, litter being dumped and a spate of lifting up water supply lids in pavements.

Resolved: The updates were noted. The Clerk was asked to send a Financial Assistance form to Bettws OAP Group and Bettws FC. Councillor Neal Harwood-Scorer was asked to let Bettws FC know that there is an option to hire a portacabin. The Council agreed in principle that the Bettws Ward should support Bettws FC's request and to ensure they're aware that they need to check whether they will need planning permission.

44/23-24 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair, Councillor Gareth Andrews, had presented the School Community Award at Ysgol Gynradd Calon y Cymoedd and is scheduled to present the one to Tynyrheol Primary School on Wednesday. He will also present to the other 3 schools once the dates are confirmed and if he's available. If he's not the Community Council School Governors will be asked to step in.

Resolved: The information was noted.

45/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden's report had been circulated to all Members. It was noted that filming is taking place in the park today and that the Warden is assisting.

Turning Circle Railway Terrace:

The Clerk asked full Council to discuss and direct her on the way forward for the work to the turning circle at the top of Railway Terrace, which forms part of Parc Calon Lan. Quotes were obtained in February, but the Council were awaiting the outcome of the

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T&CC grant funding application before making a decision on whether to accept the quote and carry out the work. This was discussed.

BCBC Electoral Arrangement Review:

The first part of this review is to invite all councils to submit any proposals or changes you may have to assist the Council in preparing draft reports. This may include boundary amendments, the merging of communities, the warding of communities, the renaming of communities or wards and the electoral arrangements within communities. Responses are to be received by 23:59 on 30th September 2023. This was discussed.

Annual Leave:

The Clerk reminded Members of the dates of her annual leave in late August and early September.

Resolved: The information was noted. It was unanimously agreed that the work to the turning should go ahead and the quote obtained on 1st February 2023 was accepted. It was also accepted that there may have been an increase in the quote as almost 6 months has now passed. It was agreed to include BCBC's Electoral Arrangement Review on the September agenda and that Members should pass on their suggestions, comments or observations to the Clerk by 20th August to collate the notes in time for the September meeting. The Clerk's leave was noted. The Clerk was asked to provide all Members with another electronic copy of the Rights of Way footpath map.

46/23-24 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk drew Members' attention to some of the correspondence received plus with the permission of the Chair some additional correspondence received since the papers were distributed. Of particular note were the following:

- Procurement Bill Secondary Legislation Launch - Part One
- Consultation on extending the term of office for the Older People's Commissioner for Wales from 4 to 7 years.
- BCBC's Electoral Arrangement Review
- Resident - asking for the hedgerow at the bottom of Church Terrace to be cut back as it's overgrown
- BCBC - cancellation of the T&CC Forum due to technical difficulties
- Child Leukaemia Foundation Clothes Bank - request to place a bank in our wards.

Resolved: All correspondence was noted. The Clerk was asked to check if the hedgerow was on the Council's land and if so arrange for it to be cut back. The Clerk was asked to suggest two locations for the Child Leukaemia Foundation Clothes Bank and to approach those businesses directly; they are the surgery area in Pontycymer and the Richard Price Centre.

47/23-24 PLANNING MATTERS

In total 1 planning requests had been received and there were 1 decisions and 0 appeals. 5 Planning Aid email had been sent out in the month for information.

In addition, an update had been received from BCBC on the enquiry regarding planning permission for a build in Brynbedw Street. BCBC confirmed that the cabin being built at this location is a replacement building and that planning permission is not required.

Resolved: All information received was noted. There were no observations.

48/23-24 ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2023 ORDINARY MEETING

- Pump Park Parc Calon Lan (ML)
- Community Award Presentation 2022
- Events Committee Update
- BCBC Electoral Arrangement Review

Resolved: The agenda would be kept open for items to be added in the month.

The date for the next meeting is Monday 18th September 2023 at 6.30 pm and will take place at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall, Blaengarw and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 7.22 pm.